



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Serial No.: 10/826,696

Confirmation No.: 9603

In re Application of:

Yoshihiko KURASHIMA et al.

Group Art Unit: 3749

Filed: April 19, 2004

Examiner: Unassigned

For: FIRING FURNACE AND FIRING METHOD

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application,
please amend the application as follows: